

## REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 17, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 18 and 19 were indicated allowable. Claim 18 has been placed in independent form and is believed allowable. Claim 19 depends upon claim 18.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsui. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “the validation code including an encrypted key that is to be decrypted by a receiving service provider to validate authenticity of the service provider.” Support for this feature is found in at least paragraph [0029] of Applicant’s specification. Matsui fails to teach this feature. In applying Matsui, the Examiner cited to a user password and paragraphs [0032] and [0034] as corresponding to the claimed validation code. Matsui is generally directed to trading user’s personal information through an ISP. The sections cited by the Examiner relate to collecting a user’s personal information, but there is no teaching of validating authenticity of a service provider as recited in claim 1. Figure 3 makes reference to verifying the credibility of a company and is described in paragraph [0051]. This verification of credibility is not based on a validation code as recited in claim 1. Thus, Matsui fails to teach all the elements of claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Matsui. Claims 2-5 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Matsui for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

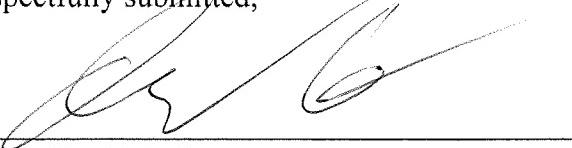
Independent claims 6, 11 and 16, as amended, recite features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are patentable over Matsui for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1. Claims 7-10 depend from claim 6. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11. Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Thus, claims 7-10, 12-15 and 17 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons advanced with reference to claims 6, 11 and 16.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 13, 2008